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Octomom Pleads in Welfare Fraud Case

The woman known as Octomom pleaded no contest today to one misdemeanor count of welfare fraud after proving to a judge she repaid more than \$26,000 to the state and Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Nadya Suleman, whose real name is Natalie Denise Suleman, 39, entered her plea before Superior Court Judge David Horwitz. She was immediately sentenced to two years of summary probation and ordered to perform 200 hours of community service.

Deputy District Attorney William Clark with the Public Assistance Fraud Division, who prosecuted the case, said Suleman is no longer receiving aid in Los Angeles County because she moved to Orange County in April 2013.

Suleman, who gained notoriety by giving birth to octuplets, filed for public assistance in Lancaster in January 2013. While applying for public aid, the mother of 14 children failed to disclose that she was also getting checks for personal appearances and residuals from videos. She was charged with failure to report nearly \$30,000 in extra income she earned between Jan. 1, 2013, and June 30, 2013.

Suleman paid \$9,805 to the California Department of Health Care Services for Medi-Cal overpayments and \$16,481 to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services for aid.

The case was investigated by the Department of Public Social Services.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.